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Illinois Department of Public Aid

MONTHLY REPORT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN ILLINOIS

August 1983

A record number of AFDC openings this August following exhaustions of unemployment benefits halted four months of downtrend on the part of Illinois' overall public aid rolls. Recipient totals had dropped 35,335 persons between their March 1983 peak and July, mostly due to policy changes, then rebounded 7,861 this August to a total of 1,074,544. Cases increased 2,908 between the last two months, to 545,355. Grant payments amounted to $91,402,400 in August; medical outlays are reported by program in the attached tables. These caseloads and grants, where applicable, include the Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Assistance to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled, Medical Assistance--No Grant, General Assistance-Chicago, and Aid to the Medically Indigent programs. Excluded from all totals were downstate GA receiving units, GA non-receiving units throughout the state, all refugee activities, and the Food Stamp Program.

AFDC Cases at All-Time Peak. Both sectors of the AFDC program were heavily impacted this month by additions to the rolls of former unemployment compensation beneficiaries. As a result, the combined program rose 8,500 persons between the last two months to 734,656; cases increased 2,734 to an all-time record of 241,570. Grant expenditures totalling $71,649,300 averaged $296.60 per case and $97.53 per capita. "0" grant cases, largely pregnant women without children, numbered 4,009. Current changes, by sector, are detailed below:

	Cases		Persons	
	August 1983	Change from Month Ago	August 1983	Change From Month Ago
AFDC Combined	241,570	+2,734	734,656	+8,500
Basic Sector	224,362	+1,906	663,376	+5,170
Unemployed Sector	17,208	+ 828	71,280	+3,330

AABD in Sharp Increase. The number of grant recipients under the Assistance to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled program rose a substantial 632 over July's level to a current total of 31,409 one-person cases. That count included 5,891 aged persons, 289 blind, and 25,229 disabled. State Supplemental Payments totalling $1,702,100 averaged $68.06 each among 25,007 certified individuals. Interim Assistance of $830,600 paid to 6,402 persons averaged $129.74 per capita. The grant program's February-August uptrend has been focused among Disability-PE cases, reflecting recent court decisions.

Medical Assistance In Long-Term Decline. A continuing reduction of the Medical Assistance--No Grant program's eligibility list, following its peak of 200,605 persons in December 1980, was in evidence this August as the rolls fell 1,835 persons from the July level; this month's total was 178,167 persons in 156,118 eligible cases. Persons in families categorically entitled to medical care only (AFDC-MANG) dropped 1,668 between July and August, to 22,614 in 9,322 cases. Aged, blind, or disabled persons in similar status (AABD-MANG) declined 200, to 131,421 one-person cases. Also lower, the number of foster care children eligible for medical only decreased 215, to 10,444. Two segments increased: Persons in AFDC-extended medical status rose 245, to 12,598 in 3,841 families. AABD "0" grants were up 3, at 1,090.

AMI Loads Down Again. Nine straight months of reduction, including 478 fewer persons between July and August, have cut the Aid to the Medically Indigent eligibility list to a low 4,851 persons in 3,384 cases this August. Application receipts have risen markedly in the last two months, from 1,864 in June to 2,788, then 5,960 in the report period.

GA-Chicago Rebounds. A significant drop of 2,332 persons from Chicago's General Assistance rolls between June and July was partly erased by this month's rise of 1,042, to 125,461 persons in 112,874 cases. Exhaustions of unemployment benefits were a major factor in the recent increase. The August case count included 23,831 in the Northern Region, 28,833 in Western, 27,513 in Central, 31,903 in the Southern Region, and 794 city-wide. Grant payments totalling $17,220,400 averaged $137.26 per capita.

Other GA Activity. Downstate GA receiving units accounted for 15,175 recipients in 13,812 cases in July, the latest month for which information was available. Grants amounted to $1,897,500. An additional 189 persons in 172 cases received State-aided assistance in suburban Cook County. Grants to these residents of Cicero were $22,500. All of the foregoing included some local funds. GA non-receiving units in the state as a whole reported 16,520 persons in 8,489 cases in July; grants totalled $892,800. Caseloads and expenditures for non-receiving units were partly estimated.

Food Stamp Program. The 1,127,405 persons in 427,103 households receiving Food Stamps in August were 23,959 persons more than a month earlier. The "net" issuance amount was $54,270,700, averaging $127.07 per household and $48.14 per person.

Applications--All Programs. Applications taken this August numbered 49,083, including 3,034 for aged, blind, or disabled grants, 16,778 for AFDC, 12,397 for Medical Assistance, 5,960 for Aid to the Medically Indigent, and 10,914 for General Assistance in Chicago.

AFDC Applications. An all-time record 16,778 AFDC applications were received during August, including a very high 9,940 from persons not previously AFDC grantees. The overall total comprised 13,044 for basic sector assistance and 3,734 for the unemployed sector. Among applications processed, 36.7 percent were denied, including 33.8 percent of AFDC-basic activity and 46.5 percent of the AFDC-U total. Applications on hand at the month's end rose from an already high 10,185 on July 31 to 10,466 currently.

AFDC Openings and Closings. Loss of unemployment benefits accounted for a record 1,506 AFDC openings this month, representing 17.8 percent of the 8,470 openings for which reasons were available. Family living below agency standards was cited for 28.4 percent; loss of employment, 17.5; parent leaving home, 13.4; increased medical needs, 4.4; and all other reasons, 18.5 percent.

The 7,105 closings tabulated included 21.1 percent due to receipt of employment or increased budgeted earnings; noncooperation with redetermination requirements, 12.9; whereabouts unknown and loss of legal residence, 11.4 each; lack of an eligible child, 10.1; and requested cancellation, 10.0 percent. Miscellaneous reasons contributed the remaining 23.1 percent.

Prepared by:

Bureau of Research and Analysis
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Illinois Department of Public Aid

PROGRAMS RECEIVING STATE FUNDS

NUMBER OF CASES, PERSONS, and AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE

(Excludes Downstate General Assistance Receiving Units) - August 1983

PROGRAM	NUMBER OF CASES	PERSONS				AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE			
			Change From				Grant Payments		
			A Month Ago	A Year Ago				Average per	Medical
		Number		Number	Percent	Total	Amount	Person	Payments
Total a/	545,355	1,074,544	+ 7,861	+26,839	+ 2.6	$184,295,000 b/	$91,402,400 b/	$ --	$ 92,892,600 b/
Categorical Grant Cases	272,979	766,065	+ 9,132	+21,641	+ 2.9	108,353,600	74,182,000	96.84	34,171,600
AABD Grant Cases	31,409	31,409	+ 632	+ 1,239	+ 4.1	7,585,900	2,532,700 c/	80.64	5,053,200 d/
Aged	5,891	5,891	+ 21	- 43	- 0.7	931,100	396,600	67.32	534,500 d/
Blind	289	289	- 3	- 11	- 3.7	56,200	23,400	80.97	32,800 d/
Disabled	25,229	25,229	+ 614	+ 1,293	+ 5.4	6,598,600	2,112,700	83.74	4,485,900 d/
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	241,570	734,656	+ 8,500	+20,402	+ 2.9	100,767,700	71,649,300	97.53	29,118,400
AFDC - Basic	224,362	663,376	+ 5,170	+12,282	+ 1.9	92,263,500	65,513,700	98.76	26,749,800
AFDC - Unemployed	17,208	71,280	+ 3,330	+ 8,120	+12.9	8,504,200	6,135,600	86.08	2,368,600
Medical Assist.-No Grant	156,118	178,167	- 1,835	- 8,287	- 4.4	55,457,700	--	--	55,457,700
Medical Only	140,743	154,035	- 1,868	-11,009	- 6.7	55,047,700	--	--	55,047,700
"0" Grant	1,090	1,090	+ 3	- 218	-16.7	--	--	--	--
AFDC Extended Medical e/	3,841	12,598	+ 245	+ 3,034	+31.7	--	--	--	--
Foster Care f/	10,444	10,444	- 215	- 94	- 0.9	410,000	--	--	410,000
General Assistance City of Chicago b/	112,874	125,461	+ 1,042	+19,383	+18.3	19,871,700	17,220,400	137.26	2,651,300
Aid to the Med. Ind.	3,384	4,851	- 478	- 5,898	- 54.9	612,000	--	--	612,000
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Other Programs (Not Included in Above Totals):									
Burial	--	--	--	--	--	155,900	155,900	--	--
Food Stamps g/	427,103	1,127,405	+23,959	+32,646	+ 3.0	54,270,700	54,270,700	48.14	--

a/ Includes the following: aged, blind, or disabled cases for which grants were paid this month; cases in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program for which maintenance grants were paid; aged, blind, or disabled "0" grant cases, persons categorically eligible for medical care only, AFDC-extended medical care cases, and foster care children under the Medical Assistance--No Grant program; the Aid to the Medically Indigent program; and recipients of General Assistance in Chicago. Data for GA receiving units downstate not available.

b/ General Assistance caseloads and expenditures in units receiving State funds available for the City of Chicago only. A total of $25,000 was spent on behalf of 189 persons in Cicero (suburban Cook Co.) last month. GA receiving units downstate reported $2,151,000 expended on behalf of 15,175 persons in July.

c/ Includes $830,600 expended on behalf of 6,402 PE cases, averaging $129.74 per case.

d/ Medical payments on behalf of 1,090 "0" grant cases, 347 aged, 15 blind, and 728 disabled, are included; however, case and person totals for these "0" grant cases are included under the Medical Assistance--No Grant program, and not under Categorical Grant Cases.

e/ Medical payments for these cases are included in the total shown for the AFDC grant program.

f/ Amounts shown were paid by this Department for medical care of children in programs under the Department of Children and Family Services.

g/ Federal Food Stamp Program administered by this Department. No State funds are included in Food Stamp dollar amount. "Cases" refer to households.

Illinois Department of Public Aid

Programs Receiving State Funds--Total State, Cook County, and Downstate
Cases, Persons, and Assistance Paid--July 1983

PROGRAM	NO. OF CASES	NO. OF PERSONS	Change in Persons From A Month Ago	Change in Persons From A Year Ago Number	Change in Persons From A Year Ago Percent	ASSISTANCE Total	ASSISTANCE Grants	ASSISTANCE Medical Payments
TOTAL STATE								
TOTAL	556,431	1,082,047	-20,324	+30,547	+2.9	$176,772,242	$91,452,028	$85,320,214
ABD Grant Cases	30,777	30,777	+ 9	+ 237	+ 0.8	6,748,556	2,449,608 a/	4,298,948 b/
Aged	5,870	5,870	- 45	- 174	- 2.9	839,614	393,296 a/	446,318 b/
Blind	292	292	- 1	- 6	- 2.0	53,408	23,836 a/	29,572 b/
Disabled	24,615	24,615	+ 55	+ 417	+ 1.7	5,855,534	2,032,476 a/	3,823,058 b/
AFDC-Combined	238,836	726,156	-12,716	+19,429	+ 2.7	95,577,646	70,164,984	25,412,662
Basic Sector	222,456	658,206	-13,075	+12,083	+ 1.9	87,685,711	64,473,496	23,212,215
Unemployed	16,380	67,950	+ 359	+ 7,346	+ 12.1	7,891,935	5,691,488	2,200,447
Medical Assistance	157,050	180,002	- 3,126	- 7,747	- 4.1	51,674,522	--	51,674,522
"Medical Only"	141,531	155,903	- 3,428	- 9,572	- 5.8	51,355,995	--	51,355,995
"0" Grant	1,087	1,087	- 45	+ 54	+ 5.2	--	--	--
AFDC-Ext. Med. c/	3,773	12,353	+ 545	+ 1,930	+ 18.5	--	--	--
Foster Care d/	10,659	10,659	- 198	- 159	- 1.5	318,527	--	318,527
AA Receiving Units	126,050	139,783	- 1,434	+23,982	+ 20.7	21,776,851	18,837,436	2,939,415
Aid to the Med. Indigent	3,718	5,329	- 3,057	- 5,354	- 50.1	994,667	--	994,667
COOK COUNTY								
TOTAL	377,497	723,308	-15,622	+14,423	+ 2.0	$115,431,720	$66,163,478	$ 49,268,242
ABD Grant Cases	24,167	24,167	- 6	+ 5	-.	5,218,780	1,778,772	3,440,008 b/
Aged	4,831	4,831	- 29	- 111	- 2.2	660,395	301,163	359,232 b/
Blind	226	226	- 1	- 5	- 2.2	40,035	17,281	22,754 b/
Disabled	19,110	19,110	+ 24	+ 121	+ 0.6	4,518,350	1,460,328	3,058,022 b/
AFDC-Combined	157,141	480,235	-10,936	+ 195	-.	65,081,944	47,444,806	17,637,138
Basic Sector	151,318	454,827	-10,584	- 757	- 0.2	62,068,740	45,264,466	16,804,274
Unemployed	5,823	25,408	- 352	+ 952	+ 3.9	3,013,204	2,180,340	832,864
Medical Assistance	82,402	91,772	- 1,520	- 5,610	- 5.8	24,853,644	--	24,853,644
"Medical Only"	69,457	75,882	- 1,336	- 5,966	- 7.3	24,535,117	--	24,535,117
"0" Grant	931	931	- 28	+ 70	+ 8.1	--	--	--
AFDC-Ext. Med. c/	1,355	4,300	+ 42	+ 445	+ 11.5	--	--	--
Foster Care d/	10,659	10,659	- 198	- 159	- 1.5	318,527	--	318,527
AA Receiving Units	112,238	124,608	- 2,143	+20,250	+ 19.4	19,625,840	16,939,900	2,685,940
Aid to the Med. Indigent	1,549	2,526	- 1,017	- 417	- 14.2	651,512	--	651,512